

Question on Notice

No. 308

Asked on 20 March 2024

MR D PURDIE ASKED MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS AND MINISTER FOR DIGITAL SERVICES (HON B MELLISH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to new lighting installed as part of the pedestrian upgrades to Scrub Road and David Low Way in Coolum Beach—

Will the Minister reassure the residents their concerns regarding the excessive and intrusive lighting will be addressed and replace it with a lower impact alternative as originally advised, which better meets community expectations and does not impact the nearby turtle nesting area?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Ninderry for the question.

I would like to reassure the Member that road safety is the Department of Transport and Main Roads' (TMR) top priority. The current pedestrian safety upgrades on David Low Way near Scrub Road involve installation of a new dedicated right-turn lane and a new pedestrian refuge island, to allow people to safely cross the road one lane at a time. This will improve pedestrian safety at this popular coastal precinct.

As with all new projects, TMR is required to adhere to the relevant Australian standards. For this project, the lighting design must comply with the current *Australian Standard 1158 – Lighting for roads and public spaces*.

The project's location—along with the potential impact to surrounding fauna, the coastal environment and neighbouring properties—was thoroughly considered during the project's design and site investigations. These considerations identified the beach and surrounding rock outcrop adjacent to the project site are mapped as High Ecological Significance wetlands. The vegetation next to the road provides significant screening for fauna and promotes fauna movement and connectivity through this coastal corridor.

As a result of these considerations, a less intrusive lighting plan was implemented. This includes a lower mounting height for the newly installed streetlights and a specific colour temperature incorporated into the project's lighting design to minimise the impact to the nearby fauna, including the turtle nesting area.

By maintaining a reduced mounting height of nine metres and selecting a 3000-Kelvin colour temperature luminaire, TMR has been able to reduce the impact on the environment and nearby turtle nesting area while still maintaining a compliant safety design.

The Miles Government is delivering its eighth record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row, as detailed in the *Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program 2023–24 to 2026–27*, which outlines \$32.1 billion in investment over the next four years and is estimated to support an average of 25,200 direct jobs over the life of the program. Of this, \$3.147 billion is committed across TMR's North Coast Region, estimated to support an average of 2460 direct jobs over the life of the program.